

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 19, 1968

MEMO FOR MR. ROSTOW

In view of the unusual redeployment yesterday of 200 Soviet Tactical Air Force fighters back to the Czech border, the attached message takes on added significance.

David Y. McManis

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ALL LIAISON OPERATIONS BY AN-12 AND AN-26 AIRCRAFT. A UNITED STATES
SFGS "AUTHORIZED" DIVISION ALSO WAS REPORTED ENROUTE TO PRAGUE
VIA SLAVY. CONTINUOUS FLIGHTS OF AN-12 TO THE PRAGUE AREA ARE BELIEVED
TO BE TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE PT-76 TANKS AND STR-40
PERSONNEL CARRIERS. OTHER CZECH AREAS WHICH ARE PROBABLY UNDER
SOVIET CONTROL INCLUDE LSH, PRNO, JAMAYKA VETRAVA, PRIMAN
AND ZATEC.

THE SOVIETS HAVE IMPRESSED SOME CIVILIAN CS-2R TRUCKS FOR
TROOP TRANSPORT. ONLY SPORADIC SMALL ARMS FIRE HAS BEEN REPORTED
IN CZECH HOURS PR AGUE LOCAL TIME: HOWEVER, AT 0755 HOURS
INTERMITTENT SMALL ARMS FIRE WITH HEAVY SUSTAINED AUTOMATIC
WEAPONS FIRE WAS REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOLE RADIO
STATION IN PR AGUE RETAINING IN GOVERNMENT HANDS.

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REPORTS BY RELIABLE COLLATERAL SOURCES PLACE UNDER SOVIET
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AT 0800. IT IS THEREFORE LIKELY THAT THE SOVIET
UNITS OF TRANSPORT ARE TIE INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE 1945
IT IS PROBABLY IN THE HANDS OF THE SOVIETS.

TO FAR EAST GERMANY APPEARS TO BE INVOLVED IN WHAT COULD
BE CONSIDERED SUPPORT MISSIONS: TROOP SPLITTING, AIR DEFENSE
COVER, AND PROBABLY CLOSE IN GROUND FORCES SHUTTLEING. THREE
INDEPENDENT RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENTS APPARENTLY HAVE
BEEN CONDUCTING SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS BOTH NEAR AND OVER THE CZECH
BORDER. THIRD FIGHTER DIVISION AT MERSBURG WAS APPARENTLY
SUPPLYING THE AIR DEFENSE COVER. NO ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER
OF FIGHTER AND FIGHTER BOMBER AIRCRAFT THAT HAVE FLOWN INTO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME: HOWEVER,

IN ADDITION, A RELIABLE OVERSEER HAS REPORTED
SOVIET AIRCRAFT LANDING AT MERSBURG AIRFIELD

~~TOP SECRET~~

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